

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

PM-03 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-10 NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02

TRSE-00 SAJ-01 EURE-00 SIL-01 LAB-04 OES-05 EB-07

FAA-00 DOTE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 (ISO) W

----- 115709

O 201531Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6767

INFO AMCONSUL ST JOHNS IMMEDIATE

JCS

CSAF

CINCSAC OFFUTT AFB NE

ADC SENT AFB CO

AFSC ANDREWS AFB MD

AFCS RICHARDS GEBEUR AFB MO

/MAC SCOTT AFB ILL

TAC LANGLEY AFB VA

UNCLAS OTTAWA 2308

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MARR, PGOV, CA

SUBJECT: GOOSE BAY CLOSURE

REF: OTTAWA 2307 (NOTAL)

1. GOC IS ISSUING TODAY THE FOLLOWING PRESS RELEASE RE
GOOSE BAY CLOSURE:

BEGIN TEXT

OTTAWA STUDIES WAYS TO ALLEVIATE ANY POTENTIAL LOCAL
ADVERSE ECONOMIC IMPACT TO BE CAUSED BY US MILITARY
PULL-OUT FROM GOOSE BAY, LABRADOR JUNE 30, 1976.

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LOCATION: OTTAWA

IT WAS JOINTLY CONFIRMED TODAY BY REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION ADMINISTRATOR DON JAMIESON, TRANSPORT MINISTER JEAN MARCHAND, AND WILLIAM ROMPKEY, MP, FOR GRAND FALLS, WHITE BAY, LABRADOR THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES HAS INFORMED THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA THAT IT INTENDS TO WITHDRAW THEIR MILITARY FORCES FROM GOOSE BAY WHEN THE PRESENT CANADA-US AGREEMENT EXPIRES JUNE 30, 1976.

IN ANTICIPATION OF THIS MILITARY PULL-OUT, A COORDINATING COMMITTEE OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS IS ACTIVELY STUDYING WAYS AND MEANS OF ALLEVIATING POTENTIALLY ADVERSE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS THAT THE COMMUNITY OF GOOSE BAY/HAPPY VALLEY COULD EXPERIENCE AS A RESULT OF THE US DECISION.

THE US AIR FORCE HAS INDICATED THE DESIRE OF CONTINUING ACCESS TO THE GOOSE BAY AIRPORT IN ORDER TO MEET MULTILATERAL MILITARY REQUIREMENTS UNDER NATO NORAD. NEGOTIATIONS HAVE BEEN INITIATED TO EXPLORE THE EXTENT AND CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH THIS ACCESS MAY BE GRANTED BY THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT.

CONTINGENCY PLANS FOR ALTERNATIVE EMPLOYMENT ARE BEING DEVELOPED IN ADDITION TO THE EXISTING FEDERAL PROGRAMS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF MANPOWER AND IMMIGRATION AND THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION.

THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT WILL OPERATE THE GOOSE BAY AIRPORT AFTER THE WITHDRAWAL AT A LEVEL TO ACCOMMODATE DOMESTIC TRAFFIC AND THE DEPARTMENT OF NATIONAL DEFENSE. ON JULY 1, 1973 THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT TOOK OVER OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF MOST FACILITIES AND SUPPORT INSTALLATIONS OF THE USAF AT GOOSE BAY. THE CANADIAN AIR TRANSPORT ADMINISTRATION'S RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDE THE OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF MOST FACILITIES INCLUDING GROUND TRANSPORTATION, SEWERAGE, AND WATER SUPPLY, AND THE OTHER FACILITIES REQUIRED TO SUPPORT THE GOOSE BAY/HAPPY VALLEY AREA. IT IS PROPOSED THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS WILL ASSUME RESPONSIBILITY FOR ADMINISTRATION

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OF ALL PROPERTY NOT DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE AIRPORT OPERATION. THE DEPARTMENT WILL ADMINISTER THIS PROPERTY UNTIL A DECISION WITH RESPECT TO ITS USE AND/OR DISPOSAL IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF CANADA, NEWFOUNDLAND LABRADOR, AND THE MUNICIPALITY OF GOOSE BAY/HAPPY VALLEY, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT ALL SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS. THE FEDERAL INTERDEPARTMENTAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE ON GOOSE BAY IS COMPOSED OF SENIOR REPRESENTATIVES

FROM REGIONAL ECONOMIC EXPANSION, TRANSPORT,
PUBLIC WORKS, MANPOWER AND IMMIGRATION, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,
DND, AND THE TREASURY BOARD.

MATTERS UNDER CONSIDERATION INCLUDE ALTERNATIVE
EMPLOYMENT FOR THE EMPLOYEES AFFECTED BY THE USAF
WITHDRAWAL OF FORCES; THE MATTERS OF TENURE, JOB
SECURITY, EXISTING AND FUTURE BENEFITS WHICH ARE A
MATTER OF INTEREST TO THE EMPLOYEES INVOLVED DIRECTLY
OR INDIRECTLY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL ACTION RESPECTING THE
FUTURE OF GOOSE BAY AND TERMS OF TRANSFER OF CERTAIN
FEDERAL ASSETS REFERRED TO AS THE NORTH SIDE LANDS AND
FACILITIES AT GOOSE BAY TO THE PROVINCE OF NEWFOUNDLAND.

END TEXT

2. UNLESS ADVISED IMMEDIATELY TO CONTRARY, EMBASSY
PROPOSES NOT RPT NOT TO ISSUE PRESS RELEASE SIMULTANEOUSLY
BUT RATHER TO USE CANADIAN RELEASE AS SOURCE ON AN "IF ASKED"
BASIS.
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